

[002] This application is a national stage completion of PCT/GB2003/005469 filed December 16, 2003 which claims priority from British Application Serial No. 0229562.4 filed December 18, 2002.

[003] FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[005] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[009] SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[016] BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[026] DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

16. (NEW) A rotary cultivator (10) comprising an elongate tubular handle member (12), a cultivator tool (14) rotatably mounted at one end of the handle member (12) and an electric motor drive unit (16) mounted at the other end of the handle member (12), the handle member (12) being curved adjacent the end to which the cultivator tool (14) is mounted, a flexible drive element (22) extending within the tubular handle member (12), the flexible drive element (22) being connected directly at one end to the electric motor drive unit (16) and at the other end to the cultivator tool (14).

17. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 16, wherein the electric motor drive unit (16) is provided in the form of a dedicated drive unit secured to the upper end of the handle member (12).

18. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 16, wherein the electric motor drive unit (16) is provided in the form of a portable drill (66) or like appliance.

19. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 18, wherein that attachment means (70) is provided at the upper end of the handle member (12) for securing a drill (66) or like appliance to the handle member (12).

20. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 19, wherein means (78,80) is provided for clamping the drill (66) or like appliance to the attachment means (70).

21. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 16, wherein the drill (60) or like appliance is connected to the flexible drive (22) by means of a drive member (60), and the drive member (60) has a socket formation (64) for engagement of a drive formation (26) on the flexible drive (22).

22. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 16, wherein the electric motor drive unit (16) is powered by batteries (96).

23. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 16, wherein the electric

motor drive unit (16) is powered from a mains supply.

24. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 16, wherein the electric motor drive unit (16) is connected to the flexible drive (22) by a torque limiting clutch.

25. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 16, wherein the cultivator tool (14) comprises a flange formation (50) with a plurality of tine formations (56) extending in a direction of the axis of rotation of the flange formation (50).

26. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 25, wherein cylindrical tine formations (56) extend axially from the outer periphery of the flange formation (50), at angularly spaced locations.

27. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 25, wherein the tine formations (56) are angled inwardly away from the flange formation (50).

28. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (10) according to claim 16, wherein the cultivator tool (14) is connected to the flexible drive (22) by an arbor (34), the arbor (34) has a socket formation (40) for engagement of a drive formation (24) on the flexible drive (22) and being rotatably mounted in a bush unit (30) secured to the lower end of the handle member (12).

29. (NEW) The rotary cultivator (12) according to claim 16, wherein the handle member (12) is formed from a plurality of sections (18), the plurality of sections (18) are releasably interconnected by sleeve members (20) which engage the ends of adjacent sections (18).

30. (NEW) The rotary cultivator according to claim 29, wherein the sleeve members (20) act as guides and bearings for the flexible drive element (22).